

N. Y. LAWMAKERS BEGIN WITH RUSH

Committees Appointed and Many Bills Offered on Opening Day.

LEADERS HOPE FOR A SHORT SESSION

Thirty-four Proposed Constitutional Amendments Submitted in the Senate.

(From a Staff Correspondent of The Tribune)

Albany, Jan. 5.—The New York Legislature of 1916 got under way to-day, and if the plans of Speaker Thaddeus C. Sweet are carried out it will be a short and active session. The usual adjournment was taken only until Monday night instead of for a week. The Speaker announced his committee assignments to-day to make it possible to proceed with legislation without delay.

In each house about sixty measures were submitted and referred to committees. Introduction of bills and the reading of Governor Whitman's message took up nearly all the time in both Senate and Assembly. The Senate did not have to organize. The Assembly organized by electing all the officers selected by the Republican caucus last night.

Joseph M. Callahan, of The Bronx, Democratic nominee for Speaker, automatically became the Democratic floor leader, while Simon L. Adler, of Rochester, became the Republican leader.

One face missed to-day was that of Alfred E. Smith, now Sheriff of New York County, who for years had led the Democrats in the Assembly through many a hard fought battle. Mr. Callahan, his successor, made a good impression on his first day, and many legislators, both Republicans and Democrats, expressed the opinion that he would follow closely in the footsteps of "Al," Smith as a fighter. His seat was hidden under a horsehoe of roses on which were the words: "The Pride of Highbridge."

Assemblyman Maier, of Seneca, was appointed chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, which is the most important of the Assembly committees. John Malone, of Albany, who headed the Finance Committee last year, was named chairman of Cities. Mr. Knight, of Wyoming, succeeded ex-Assistant Mayor Thorpe, of Erie, as chairman of judiciary.

Chairmen of other important committees are: Codes, Ahern, of Kings; General Laws, Brennan, of Kings; Railroads, Seiker, of St. Lawrence; Electricity, Gas and Water, Baxter, of Albany; Insurance, Coffey, of Westchester; Internal Affairs, Wells, of Genesee; Banks, Wiltsie, of Cortland; Labor and Industries, Bewley, of Niagara.

\$5,134,194 Economized by Whitman Budget

Albany, Jan. 5.—A net saving of \$5,134,194 is provided in the budget bill which accompanied Governor Whitman's message to the Legislature to-day. The budget provides for total appropriations of \$57,145,511, as compared with total appropriations by the Legislature last year of \$60,697,271. The Governor says, however, in fairness to the Legislature, that it was called in to make a special appropriation of \$3,454,000 for the construction of a new departmental building, therefore which does not appear this year in any form owing to the bond issue.

On the other hand, the sinking fund contributions for the coming year, under the provisions of the constitution, have increased automatically from \$9,611,511, appropriated last year, to \$11,663,555, the necessary appropriation for the coming year, an increase of \$2,052,044.

Excluding sinking fund contributions and the annual construction appropriation from the total of 1915 and the sinking fund contributions from the total proposed by the tentative budget, the budget proposes for the next fiscal year are \$53,134,194 below the appropriations for similar items in 1915. This proposed reduction of \$3,134,194 in departmental expenses, therefore represents the result of the work of the Governor's budget conference, which began early in November.

The principal decreases as between the budget proposals and the 1915 appropriations:

Legislative Budget	1915
Treasury and audit reports	\$3,554
State and city	2,136
Contingencies	1,000
Alimony, General Fund	24,195
Commissioner of Agriculture, College	21,852
Commissioner of Agriculture, State	21,852
State and city	2,136
Contingencies	1,000
Total	53,134,194
Departmental expenses	3,454,000
Total	49,680,194
Interest on bonds	1,629
Interest on sinking fund	1,000
Total	51,309,194
Interest on bonds	1,629
Interest on sinking fund	1,000
Total	51,34,194

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